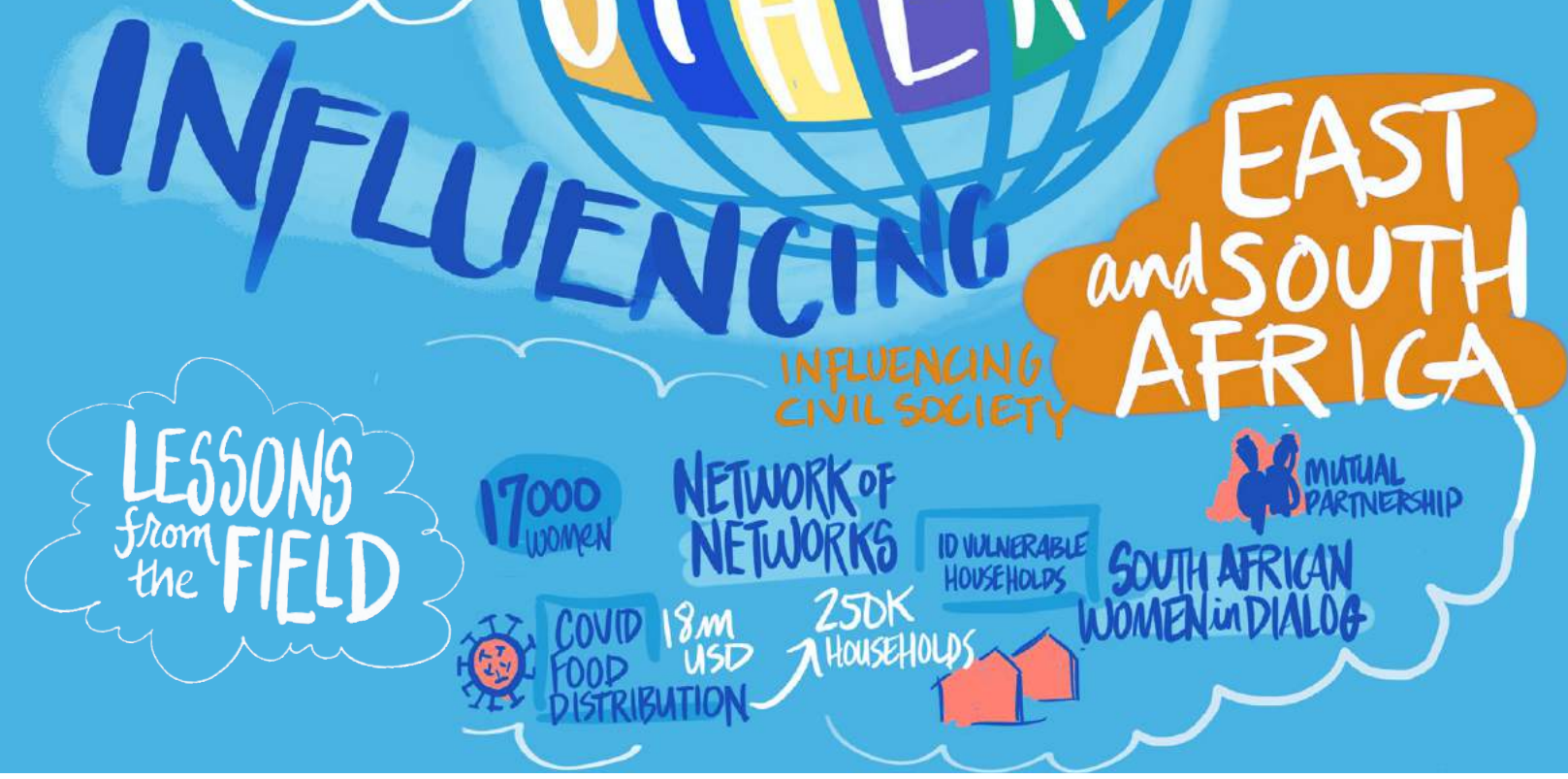


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REGULAR RESOURCES REPORT 2020



UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, with the primary purpose of accelerating progress toward meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls, and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, prioritizing five strategic outcomes. Beginning with the foundational work of UN Women, to support the strengthening and implementation of a comprehensive and dynamic set of **global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women**; and by contributing to the interdependent and interconnected outcomes: **women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; all women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; and women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.** UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work on advancing gender equality.

Cover: **On the road towards “feminist excellence”**

UN Women's management from country offices, regional offices and headquarters came together from 18 to 20 January 2021 for three-half-day discussions about priority issues for our organization. Topics discussed included the Generation Equality Forum and Action Coalitions, improving our accountability and operational effectiveness, as well as building a diverse and respectful workplace. The final day also examined how we can achieve greater focus, impact and scale in our work. Graphic Recording by Angelique McAlpine, [DrawingImpact.com](https://drawingimpact.com)

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FOREWORD

BY UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2020 ended UN Women's first decade amidst a set of unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. From the start of the crisis, it was clear that women and girls everywhere faced distinct challenges; as the majority of frontline responders in healthcare jobs and as unpaid caregivers in families and communities; as workers in jobs that lack social protection and that have been lost at alarming rates; and as victims of a shadow pandemic of gender-based violence. Thanks to early and increased regular resource contributions UN Women had the capacity and flexibility to respond nimbly to these unanticipated needs. We are grateful to our funding partners who had the vision and will to step up when it was needed most.

UN Women first drew attention to the gendered dimensions of the crisis by producing rapid and robust sex-disaggregated data underpinning a series of global policy briefs on the gender-related fallout from the crisis. We sounded the alarm about the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls and the need for an increased focus on social protection and infrastructure to address the growing care crisis, and we supported rapid gender assessments documenting the health, employment and poverty impacts of the pandemic. We shared these findings far and wide, including through massive outreach on social media and worked closely with the UN system, national and local policymakers, women's networks and organizations and businesses to translate them into concrete response and recovery measures. This report presents selected highlights of this work.

None of UN Women's contributions in this time of crisis would have been possible without regular resources. These funds enabled UN Women to kickstart immediate response and recovery initiatives, while maintaining the staffing and organizational infrastructure that sustain our global reach. Without regular resources, women and girls around the world in 2020 would have had fewer options to seek protection from gender-based violence, to access social protection and emergency relief, to

find alternative employment or restore their livelihoods, to reach critical healthcare services or to shape decisions about policies and financing to support the recovery.

In 2021, the burden of the pandemic has begun to ease in some parts of the world but continues to worsen in others. As the leading global champion of gender equality and women's empowerment with a presence in 88 countries and territories, UN Women will continue rallying people to act on the complex gender dimensions of the crisis. As we enter our second decade, UN Women will also bring urgent attention to getting back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In many countries this will require making up for time and progress lost over the past year, as well as setting a more ambitious course for change moving forward.

For UN Women, the challenge of COVID-19, while immense, opened opportunities to channel our efforts into building back a better world; one that is greener, gender-equal and inclusive. We look forward to realizing this vision together with your continued core support.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
*United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN Women*

MAKING THE CASE FOR REGULAR RESOURCES

As the COVID-19 pandemic ballooned from a global health emergency into a socioeconomic crisis, it underscored the need for flexible, reliable regular resources as never before. UN Women drew on this pool of unrestricted funds to keep its programmes going while pivoting to meet the challenges of the outbreak. Regular resources meant the response could be fast, comprehensive and far-reaching, as the situation demanded.

UN Women was able to influence global, regional and national attention to the many gender dimensions of the pandemic as soon as they emerged, working tirelessly with governments, the United Nations system and civil society organizations in 88 countries and through six regional offices. Up-to-the-minute data and evidence affirmed the drastic consequences of the pandemic for women and girls, shaping policy responses and helping to sustain and target the delivery of essential services.

This evidence-based approach proved particularly critical in the face of the “shadow pandemic” of violence against women and girls that escalated during lockdowns. UN Women invoked the powerful moral authority of the United Nations Secretary-General in urging a global “ceasefire” in homes around the world. It led United Nations country teams in integrating gender-based violence, as well as issues such as women’s livelihood losses and disproportionate burden of unpaid care in 85 out of 108 country-level socioeconomic response plans. These serve as blueprints for continued national and UN country team responses to the pandemic around the world.

While influencing global and national action, UN Women also used regular resources to maintain programmes providing direct support to women amid the economic downturn. It kept open shelters for survivors of gender-based violence, and met humanitarian needs where conflicts and natural disasters exacerbated the effects of the pandemic.

If COVID-19 brought into sharp relief the value of regular resources, the case for this flexible funding source has long been clear. As the only United Nations entity fully dedicated to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, UN Women should be adequately funded with resources that underpin global advocacy and coordination, and respond to ongoing and emerging needs.

This is true in times of crisis yet applies more broadly. Achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is a complex undertaking, with many variations across countries and even the people within them. Making investment choices that carefully and efficiently respond to these differences, and convincing an array of other partners across societies to do the same, will be the only way that women and girls everywhere will gain equal rights, equal opportunities and equal resources. And that in turn will determine all hopes for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is not achievable without gender equality.

Among all categories of investment, regular resources go furthest in making UN Women a strong global champion of women’s rights and empowerment. As repeatedly demonstrated during the pandemic, regular resources enable continuous and impactful calls for gender equality on multiple levels and across diverse constituencies. They make possible cutting-edge research and the extra measures required to effectively reach women and girls left furthest behind.

Regular resources also buttress the global management and leadership that are the backbone of UN Women’s global reach, making all of UN Women’s results possible, including in combination with earmarked other resources. Regular resources also embody the core multilateral values of the United Nations, signifying neutrality and independence, and a promise to act according to priorities set by women and girls themselves.

Over the last year, UN Women proved to be the only global organization that could rally continued attention to and action on gender equality and women’s empowerment despite the crushing pressures of COVID-19. As an organization increasingly oriented around partnerships, it brought people and organizations together to achieve scale and impact. Through its persuasive leadership, ministries of finance, international financial institutions and major businesses were among those putting a central emphasis on gender issues in the pandemic recovery.

Much remains to be done in building forward better. But at a time when the imperative for deep-seated transformation, including through achieving gender equality, is widely understood and desired, UN Women is poised to continue pushing agendas. With its partners and a firm foundation of regular resources, it will continue making a lasting difference for women and girls in every corner of the world.



Nuria Temirbek kyzy, local leader from Ak-Zhar village in rural Kyrgyzstan. UN Women provided trainings to more than 93 women in remote areas of Kyrgyzstan in entrepreneurship, business development and leadership skills. Photo UN Women/Alisher Aliev

OVERVIEW OF REVENUE, 2020

FIG. 1 CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGULAR RESOURCES, 2011-2020

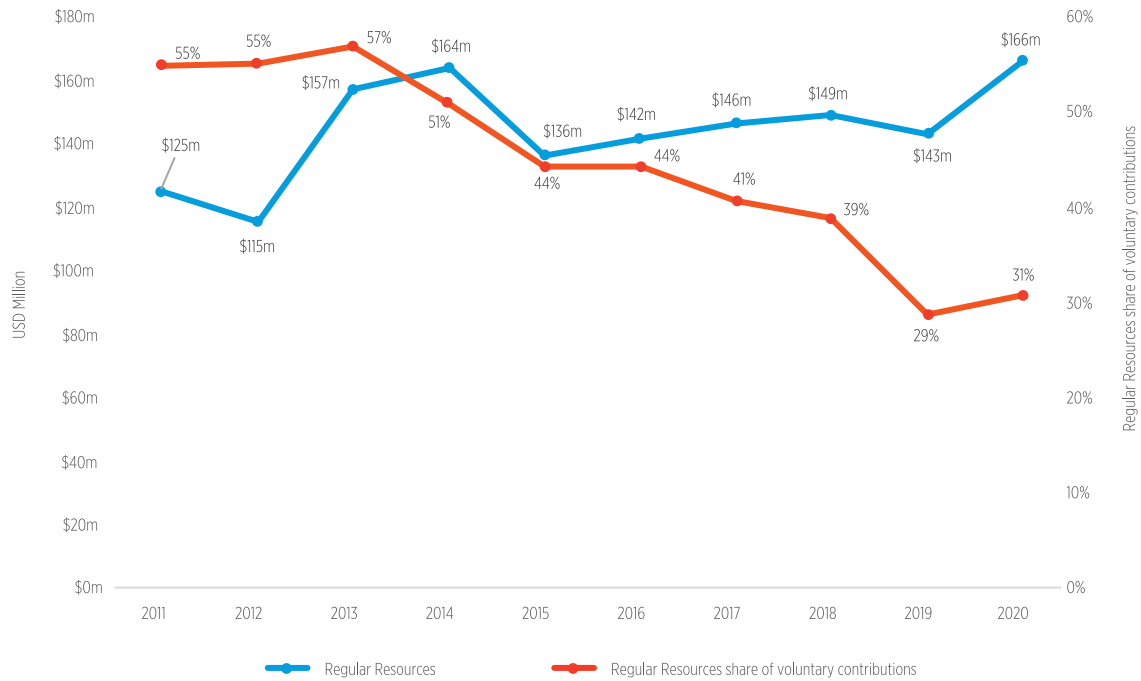
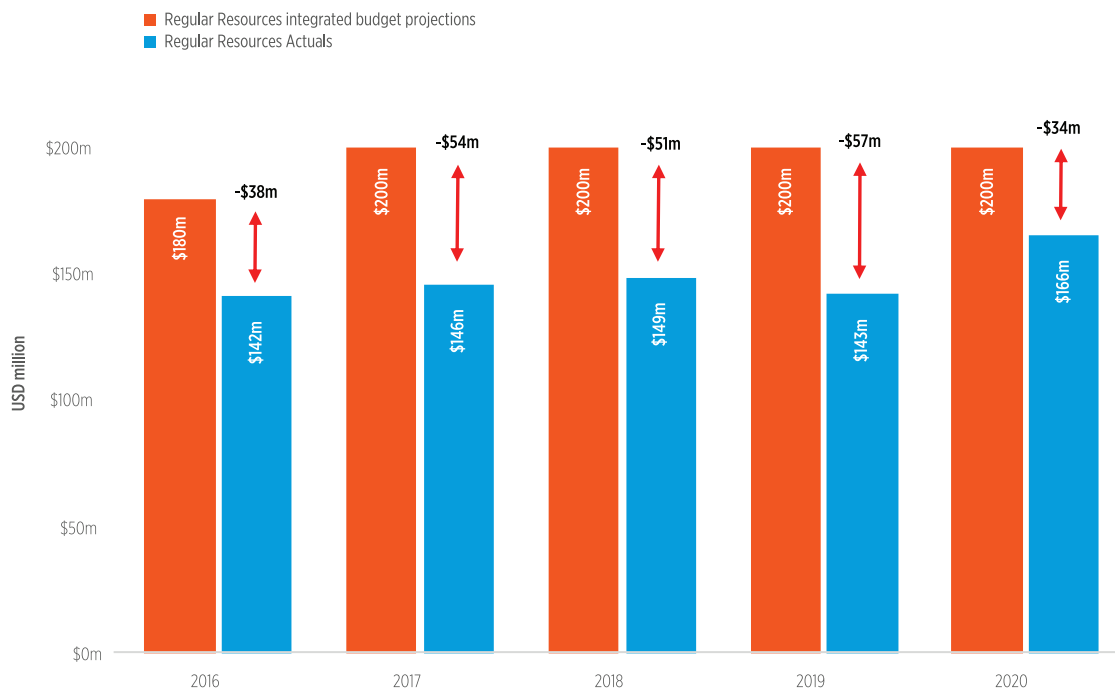
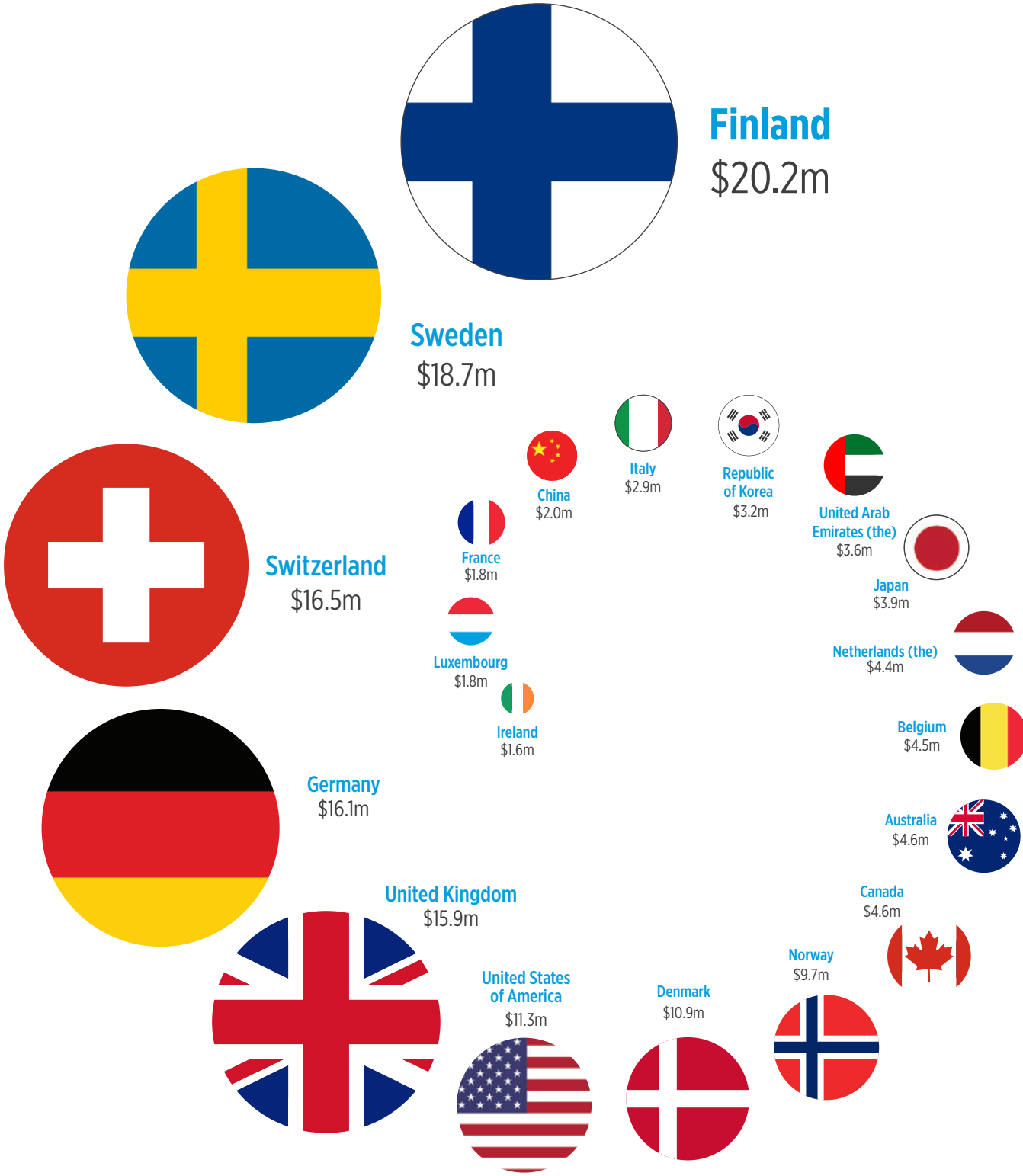


FIG. 2 REGULAR RESOURCES INTEGRATED BUDGET PROJECTIONS VS ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS, 2016-2020



COMMITTED TO THE CORE

FIG. 3 TOP 20 REGULAR RESOURCES PARTNERS, 2020
(IN USD MILLION)



EXPENDITURE, 2020

Regular resources expenditure in 2020 totalled USD 144.51 million. (Figure 4). Spending was greatest on programme implementation, technical support and stewardship, at 46 per cent of the total, followed by leadership on normative and coordination work as well as management, at 31 per cent. A smaller share went to partnership, communication and resource mobilization activities at 13 per cent; United Nations, intergovernmental and civil society coordination stood at 6 per cent, while policy, knowledge and results management, hovered at 4 per cent.

Figure 5, on regular resources spending by region and programmatic category, presents the funding flow, highlighting the top 20 partners in 2020. On the lower part are donors listed in descending order. The middle section in blue shows regular resources and distribution by region, with each region appearing in a different colour. On the top are nodes representing the five expenditure categories (similar to those in Figure 4). For example, the East and Southern Africa region is green, and its largest regular resources expenditure is on programme implementation, technical support and stewardship, followed by leadership on normative and coordination work as well as management.

FIG. 4 REGULAR RESOURCES EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY

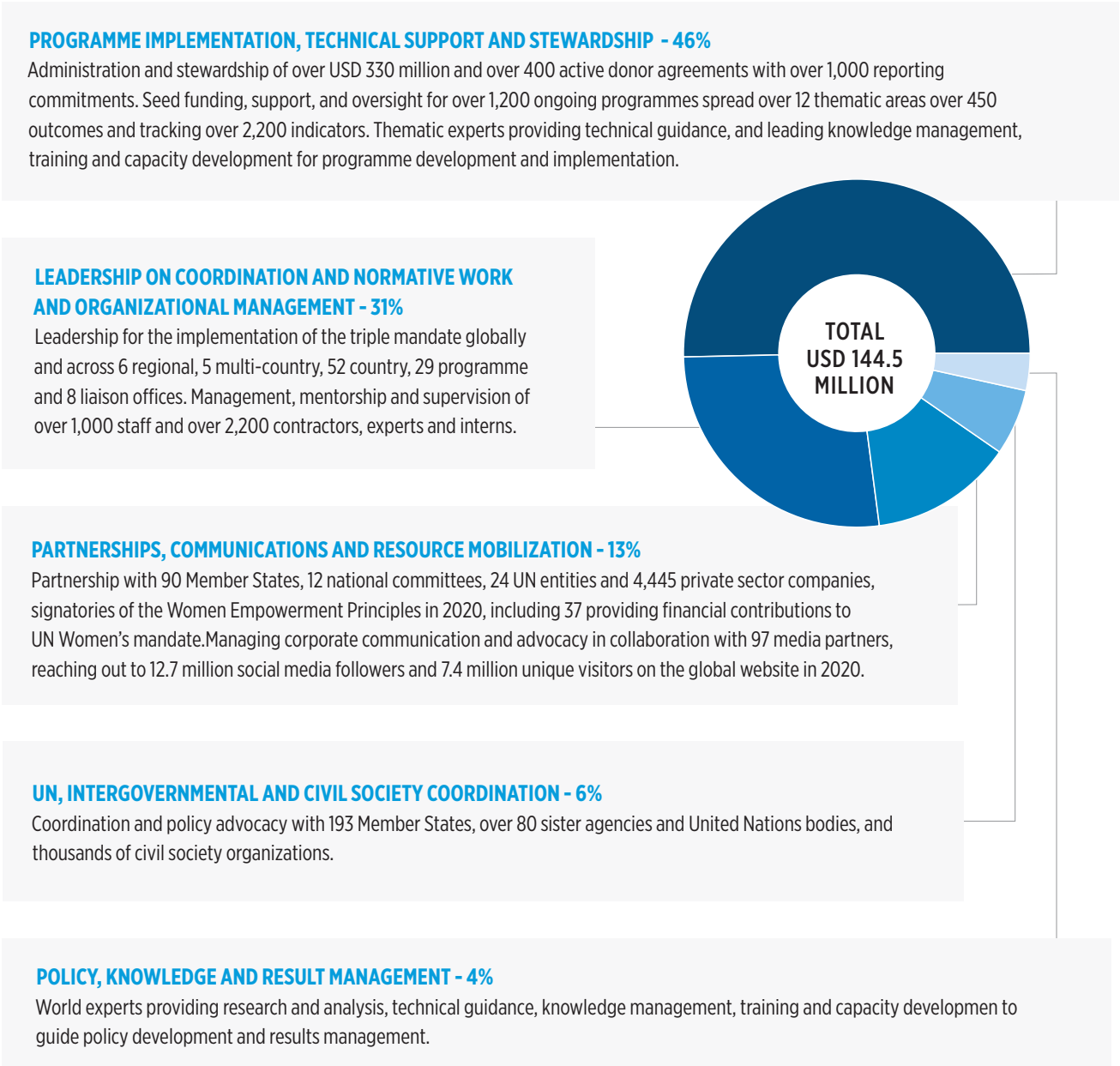


FIG. 5 REGULAR RESOURCES SPENDING BY REGION AND PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORY

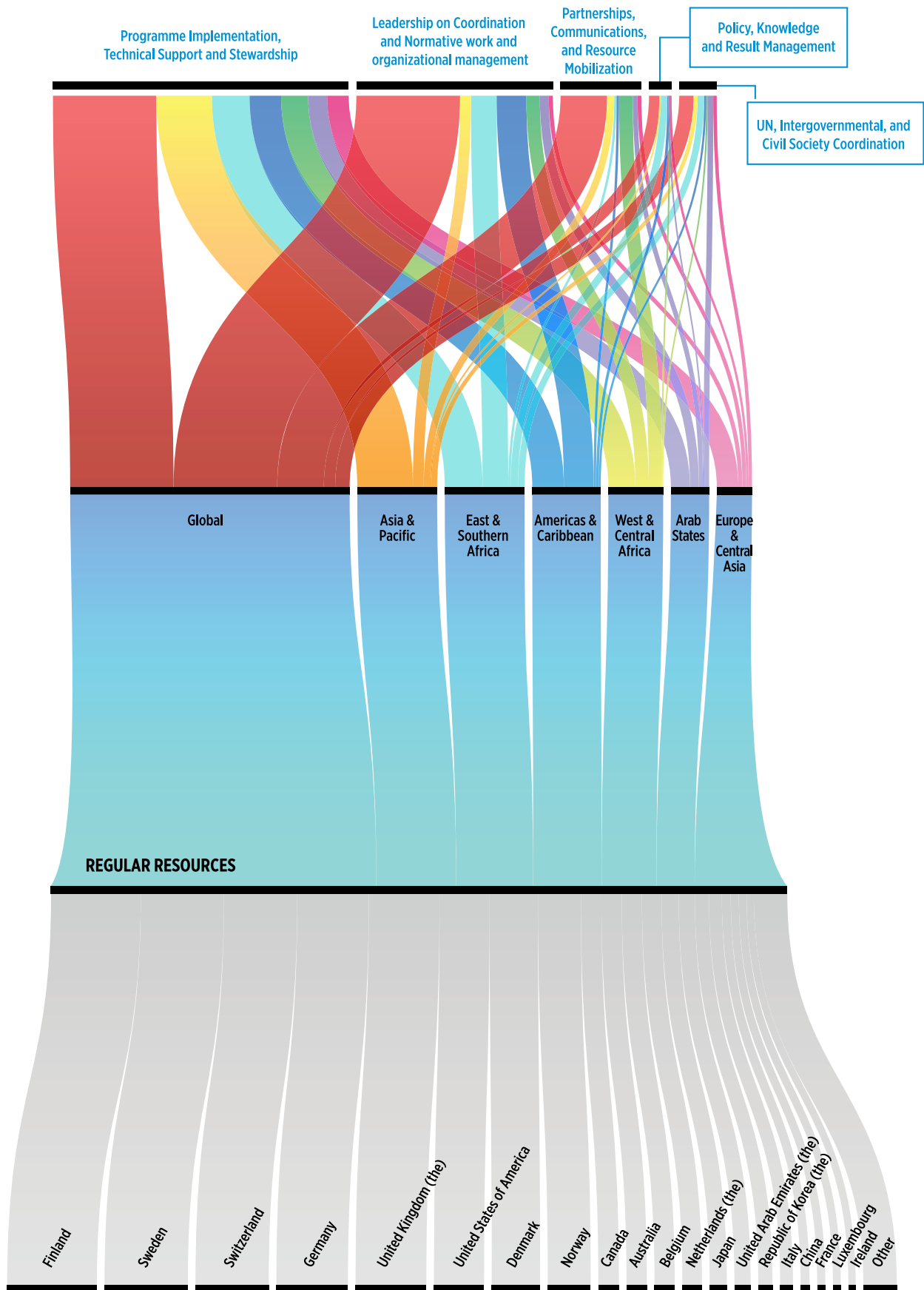


FIG. 6 REGULAR RESOURCES MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS, 2020

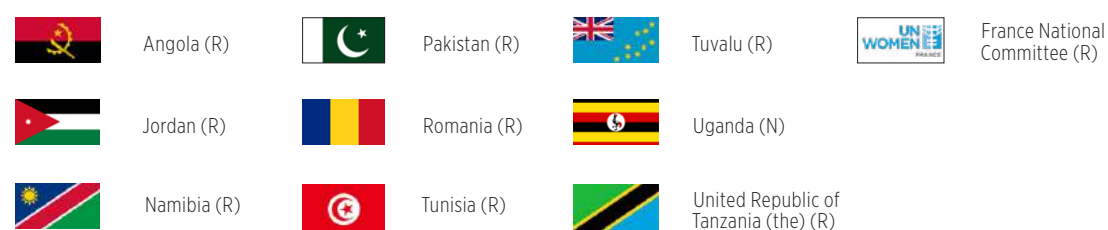
24 Partners provided multi-year commitments in 2020.



FIG. 7 PARTNERS THAT INCREASED THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO REGULAR RESOURCES, 2020

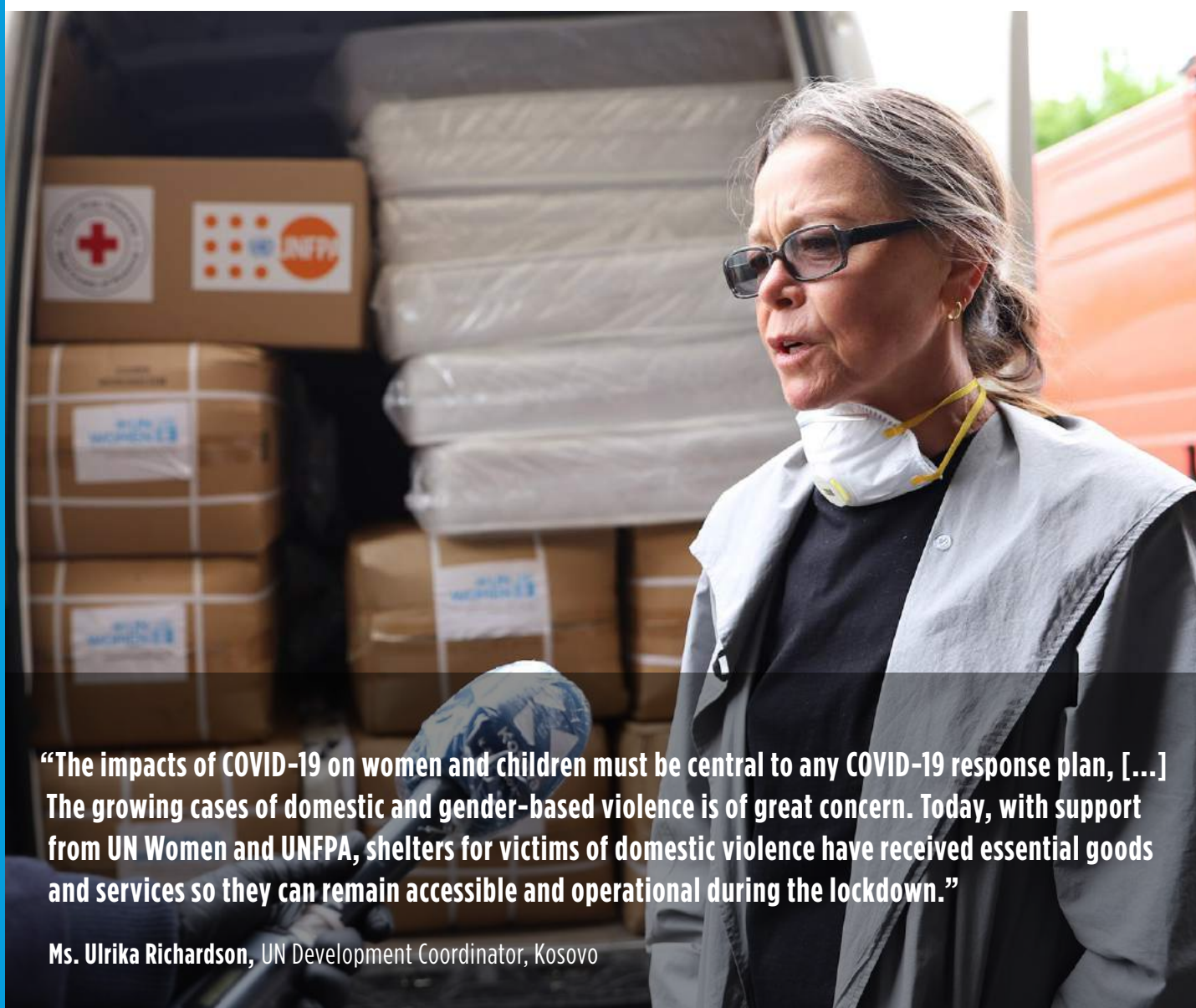


FIG. 8 NEW (N) AND RETURNING (R) REGULAR RESOURCE PARTNERS, 2020



PUTTING GENDER AT THE CENTRE OF THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In 2020, amid the devastating social and economic impacts of COVID-19, UN Women drew on regular resources to leverage its normative, coordination and operational mandates, making gender equality measures and targets central to COVID-19 recovery plans. Looking forward, UN Women must be sustainably financed to continue guiding global efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment as the world recovers and builds forward better than before.



“The impacts of COVID-19 on women and children must be central to any COVID-19 response plan, [...] The growing cases of domestic and gender-based violence is of great concern. Today, with support from UN Women and UNFPA, shelters for victims of domestic violence have received essential goods and services so they can remain accessible and operational during the lockdown.”

Ms. Ulrika Richardson, UN Development Coordinator, Kosovo

UNDC Ulrika Richardson during the hand over process of essential items in Kosovo. UN Women and the UN Population Fund responded to a rise in domestic violence during COVID-19 by supporting temporary quarantine facilities with essential supplies to ease comfort and safety of domestic violence survivors. Photo: Kosovo Ministry of Health.

THE BIG PICTURE: SHAPING FUNDING AND POLICY

With regular resources, UN Women leads advocacy for gender equality and women's rights across the UN agenda. In 2020, UN Women mobilized gender advocates from the United Nations system to stand behind gender-responsive implementation of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. The Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender Equality or IANWGE, led by UN Women and comprising gender specialists from 60 UN entities, developed the [COVID-19 Gender Equality Checklist](#) to keep gender equality at the forefront in socioeconomic response and recovery plans devised by countries around the world.

UN Women's advocacy was instrumental in putting gender equality at the heart of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, a financing mechanism created specifically to support the UN response to the development emergency created by the pandemic. As the Fund got off the ground with a first call for proposals, UN Women guided its Advisory Committee in adopting a 30 per cent financial target for proposals with gender equality as a principal objective. An inter-agency team coordinated by UN Women then devised a Gender Equality Marker Guidance Note, hosted informative webinars attended by over 400 participants from 40 UN country teams and 17 UN entities, established a help-desk service and provided quality assurance. A notable boost in demand for gender experts from UN Women and other entities yielded measurable improvements in integrating gender into country programmes.

As a result of these efforts, the financial target was met and surpassed; 65 per cent of resources provided under the Fund's second call for proposals went towards initiatives that made gender equality the primary goal. As of March 2021, through two calls, the Fund had approved projects in 69 countries with a total value of USD 73.5 million. An evaluation noted that UN Women "professionalized" and "incentivized" the incorporation of gender equality.

Through the Fund, a UN programme in **El Salvador** assured that 61,029 women and 29,117 men with chronic illnesses received medications at home to minimize their risk of COVID-19 exposure. The initiative collaborated with a non-traditional actor, the Post Office, to train postal workers to identify and refer domestic violence cases. It added a sticker to all mail with information on how to access services for victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, so many women benefited from tele-health services that a UN programme helped put in place that this approach was recommended to become a formalized part of the health system after the pandemic. The programme increased access to antenatal care, with the proportion of women receiving it for the first time rising by at least 40 per cent.

Towards economic recovery, a UN programme in **Armenia** helped five industrial companies with approximately 1,000 employees (95 per cent of whom are women) to gear up production of medical uniforms and bed linens. An initiative in **Bhutan** enhanced tourism facilities through a cash-for-work scheme, and provided inputs for 668 smallholder farmers,

70 per cent of whom were women, to boost agriculture production by at least 20 per cent.

A UN programme in **Cambodia** is assisting the national government in rolling out a first-time, USD 200 million credit guarantee scheme to provide low-cost and reliable financing to micro-, small, and medium enterprises. With a view to reducing poverty and increasing employment, the scheme will maximize the participation of women-owned enterprises in the informal sector.

Outside the Fund, other UN Women efforts to coordinate pandemic responses that were funded by regular resources included a partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) in **Lebanon** to increase gender- and age-disaggregated COVID-19 surveillance data. Further collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the National Commission for Lebanese Women resulted in regular gender alerts and resources for policy and decision-making. This influenced a decision by the Government of Lebanon to scale up resources for the national domestic violence hotline, and improved remote and online prosecution procedures for cases of domestic violence.

Within its flagship **Women Count Programme**, UN Women partners with national policymakers to improve statistics so they reflect the realities of women's lives. Work in 2020 with **Colombia's** National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Counselor's Office for Women's Equity launched the country's first annual compilation of data and analysis on gender gaps. A section on the COVID-19 response became the only detailed description of links between the pandemic and gender, providing an essential tool for local and national authorities to pursue gender-responsive emergency measures.

In 2020, UN Women supported the UN system in advancing the integration of gender-responsive analysis under the **UN Global Compact on Counter-Terrorism**. As chair of the Gender Working Group under the Compact, UN Women organized a consultation with civil society and women-led organizations to review the UNGCTS. Recommendations from this meeting were shared with Member States ahead of the seventh biennial review of the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy, scheduled for 21 and 22 June 2021. UN Women more broadly coordinates the UN system, globally and in countries, to incorporate gender-responsive solutions in all processes and policy spaces related to counter-terrorism. In 2020, it ensured the gender-responsiveness of two major global frameworks related to the treatment of armed groups designated as terrorist organizations.



CONSULTATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS KEPT GENDER VISIBLE – AND ACTIONABLE

In every part of the world, UN Women has been at the forefront of assessing the particular impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls, gaining vital insights that have been widely influential in defining appropriate responses in policies, plans and budgets. In **Asia and the Pacific**, regular resources strengthened the regional gender in humanitarian action coordination mechanism, fostered networks of gender champions, and supported extensive regional and national level consultations yielding evidence-based analyses on the gendered impacts of COVID-19. UN Women was able to open strategic entry points for gender mainstreaming, and expanding national gender in humanitarian action working groups.

A regional advocacy brief on gender in the pandemic was incorporated in COVID-19 response plans in countries, including Afghanistan and the Philippines. Translated for use in other regions, it shaped global discourse and action on intersections between gender and the pandemic. Updates have consolidated key findings from assessments across the region, laying out recommendations as countries begin to pivot towards recovery.

UN Women also convened women-focused organizations and networks to assess the quantity and quality of gender funding in the COVID-19 response. This resulted in a strong call for donors and key partners to close resource gaps, particularly given evidence that these organizations have not effectively responded to the greater needs and vulnerabilities among women and girls during the pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, women's organizations across **Europe and Central Asia** have played key roles in providing life-saving services, from disseminating information to providing food to

maintaining support for survivors of gender-based violence. Regular resources funded consultations across the region to bring women's views and solutions to the forefront of COVID-19 responses, involving representatives from 14 gender equality mechanisms, and 128 women's organizations and activists from 18 countries/territories. They put forward 65 proposed actions for governments and development partners, and urged more systematic approaches to guaranteeing that women influence critical decisions.

UN Women also assisted 16 countries in the region to conduct rapid gender assessments, and will continue drawing on regular resources during the recovery period to mainstream gender into policymaking and budgeting.

UN Women in **Guatemala** put women at the centre of the national agenda in 2020, through a National Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment, with 49 multi-actor partners at the highest level, to advance income generation by strengthening women's entrepreneurship, technical training for work and the National Care System.

“Any effective economic response to the crisis caused by the coronavirus should factor in a gender perspective, understanding the challenges faced by women and incorporating solutions that would aim to reduce the disproportionate gender impacts the crisis may have.”

Sanela Skrijelj, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of North Macedonia

Julie Cristy Bendita, the nurse in charge of receiving donations for use of doctors and frontliners in SocCSKSarGen General Hospital, the designated COVID-19 Hospital of South Cotabato, Philippines, inspects the newly-delivered PPEs donated by the private sector through Bulig Kontra Covid-19 Koronadal. Julie also leads the social media team of the hospital which publishes updates about the COVID-related developments in the hospital. Photo: UN Women/Louie Pacardo





Rural women in Morocco working in the sector of aromatic and medicinal plants carrying out their agricultural activities during the COVID-19 lockdown after receiving the UN Women training about the hygiene protocol measures to adopt during the pandemic, June 2020. Photo: Tudert Cooperative

ON THE GROUND WITH PROGRAMMES THAT DELIVER

COVID-19 had profound impacts on every aspect of women's lives and livelihoods. Around the world, UN Women deployed regular resources to develop quick solutions to reductions in income, food shortages and the need for safe shelter. It worked with business and civil society partners to maintain women's rights to work and participate amid the pressures of the pandemic.

In **Senegal**, more than two-thirds of women are active in agriculture, providing more than 80 per cent of production and making major contributions to the national economy. But COVID-19 hit the sector hard, particularly female farmers. With production down by 60 per cent in the first three months of the crisis, poverty and food insecurity rose in vulnerable households, leading the Government to launch a system of food transfers.

UN Women collaborated with the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection on a gender-responsive procurement initiative that helped female farmers access contracts under the government plan. It turned to an existing programme that, since 2018, has supported the Network of Female Rice Producers of the North of Senegal to develop climate-resilient agriculture and integration in rural value chains that improve income, reaching 16,000 female farmers. Network members began producing the cereals needed for the food transfer programme, with the Government purchasing 231 tons of rice and 23 tons of cereals from 285 women's cooperatives and micro-, small and medium enterprises. This facilitated the distribution of food kits to 10,000 vulnerable households.

Women farmers in **Morocco** were also hard hit by the pandemic. Several agricultural production units managed by women cooperatives had to stop production and sales. UN Women organized online training for 75 women members of cooperatives in three provinces to enable them to re-open their production units by adopting new hygiene protocols and methods for disinfection and cleaning. Participants in turn shared what they learned with 153 more rural women producing aromatic and medicinal plants, olives and essential oils.

After an online platform to facilitate the marketing of products during lockdowns was launched by the Social Development Agency and Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family, UN Women organized sessions with members from three cooperatives to familiarize them with how to use it. Women's cooperatives were able to sell almost 50 per cent of products like organic chickpeas and lentils, prickly pears and jams online, gaining visibility, new skills and a source of income.

In **Ethiopia**, UN Women helped more than 166 representatives from civil society organizations, political parties, national human rights institutions and election management bodies develop a solid foundation of knowledge about women's political rights ahead of the country's sixth general election. To ensure the safety of participants and in keeping with COVID-19 precaution guidelines, the trainings were conducted in a hybrid manner with socially distanced physical trainings combined with online facilitation.

“When UN Women informed us of the launch of a virtual platform, we received the news like a miracle! We decided to seize this opportunity and all the women of the cooperative actively participated in the training sessions. Many of us would not have survived without this support. Digital technology has been a real lifeline. It has not only enabled women to sell their products online but has also helped keep them informed of news related to agriculture and the evolution of the COVID-19 crisis. We were able to reduce the risk of losing sources of income and make ourselves resilient to future crises.”

Souhad Azenoud, President of the Ariaf Kissane women's cooperative, Morocco

“We consider CEDAW an excellent platform to strengthen the women’s movement....in 2020 women’s organizations became more visible and gained more influence. The pandemic has literally forced us to master information technology. Women from all over Ukraine with different digital literacy skills have coped brilliantly with this challenge. We were able to connect with women from small villages and settlements, as well as from hard-to-reach groups, such as Roma girls from camps, who use old push-button phones! We contracted a coordinator in a nearby town who connected via Zoom conference and put them on the speakerphone. So, we heard them, and they heard us.”

Dr. Marfa Skoryk, feminist researcher and Director of Kyiv Institute of Gender Studies, Ukraine

In **Nepal**, the pandemic imposed extra difficulties on women migrant workers. Some attempting to return home were stranded at the border in quarantine and holding facilities, where limited attention was paid to their needs. Supported by UN Women, women’s rights organization such as Women for Human Rights established women-led and managed quarantine centres in 10 districts to provide temporary shelter to returnee women migrants and facilitate their reintegration in their families. With each shelter housing 365 women, UN Women ensured they had personal protective equipment as well as food supplies.

UN Women also coordinated actors within the humanitarian system in Nepal, influencing the development of common approaches to women in quarantine, based on international standards. It supported the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens to develop and disseminate a gender equality and social inclusion checklist with benchmarks for operating quarantine centres and ensuring their quality and responsiveness. Diverse operators of centres applied the checklist, including local governments. Further impetus behind applying gender equality and social inclusion standards came from a landmark judgment by the Supreme Court of Nepal urging the Government to put women’s rights at the heart of its COVID-19 relief and response plan. The judgment included a requirement to repatriate migrant workers stranded abroad.

In **Mexico**, private companies approached UN Women for advice on ways to address the rise in domestic violence and the challenges of teleworking during the pandemic. UN Women developed two widely shared briefs on gender equality in the workplace and co-responsibility in households, and provided guidance for both employers and employees on domestic abuse during home-based work.

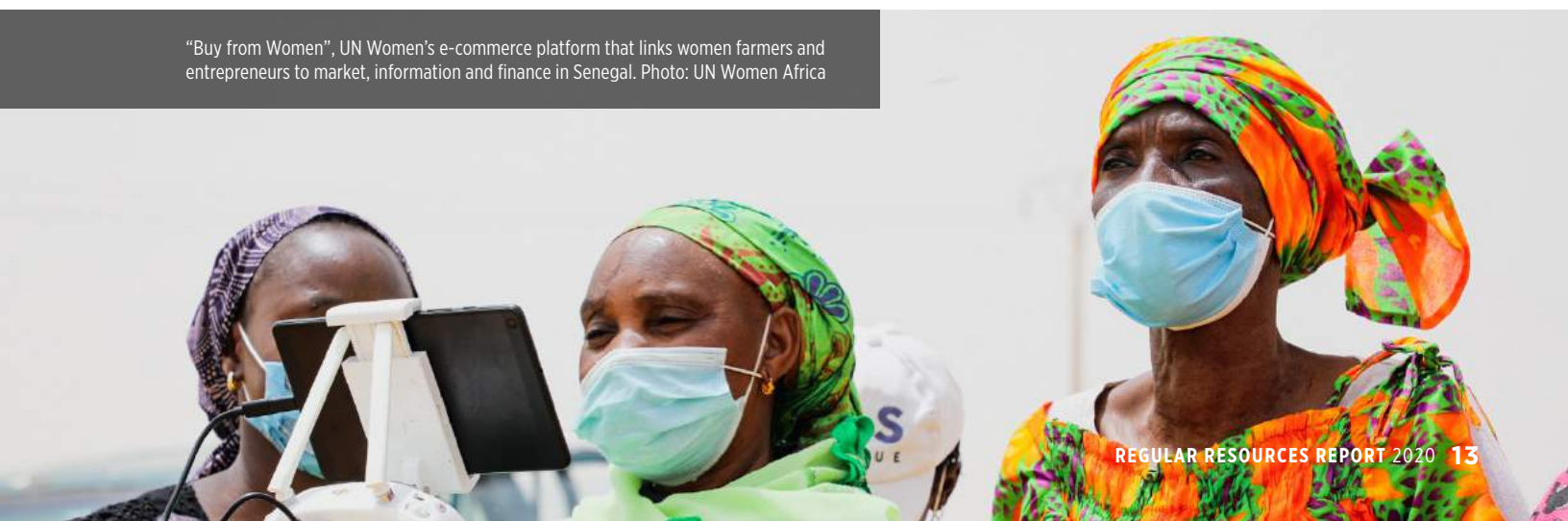
In August 2020, the Mexican Business Council formally committed to the HeForShe campaign to achieve gender equality. The Council is the

highest representative body of the private sector in Mexico, bringing together firms responsible for approximately 80 per cent of national GDP. The Mexican Institute of Social Security, the Business Coordinating Council and the Mexican Bar Association have also joined HeForShe, making specific commitments to realizing greater equality between men and women inside and outside their institutions. HeForShe raised awareness about co-responsibility and positive masculinities through a guide elaborated with the National Institute of Women which outlines steps men can take to reduce inequalities and prevent violence against women and girls during isolation.

As the **Government of Ukraine** prepared to issue an official report assessing its progress in implementing CEDAW in 2020, civil society organizations had to search for innovative solutions to manage pandemic restrictions while preparing their own alternative or “shadow” submission for review by the CEDAW Committee. It was an important moment, since the reviews can determine future national directions on a host of services and initiatives to improve progress on women’s rights. UN Women helped establish a network of grass-roots coordinators to reach out to remote women’s groups so they could participate via virtual platforms. This meant that 700 participants from 90 civil society organizations in 20 regions could collaborate to present a unified position.

The final report emphasized the contributions of women facing multiple forms of discrimination, including women with HIV, Roma and ethnic minority women, LBTQI (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex) persons, internally displaced women, girls and women with disabilities, rural women, widows, women veterans and women’s rights defenders.

“Buy from Women”, UN Women’s e-commerce platform that links women farmers and entrepreneurs to market, information and finance in Senegal. Photo: UN Women Africa





In Colombia, UN Women worked with local partners to strengthen gender-responsive emergency action in response to the pandemic and Hurricane Iota. Photo: UN Women/Norma Londoño

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

During pandemic-imposed lockdowns across the globe, feelings of insecurity and financial struggles left many women and children unsafe in their homes and vulnerable to violence. This became known as the “shadow pandemic”. It coincided with the inability to access essential legal, health and other social protective services. UN Women used regular resources to help shelters find workarounds to keep their doors open and to sustain hotlines and other information channels.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the first weeks of lockdowns saw a 40 per cent boost in calls to SOS helplines and a 20 per cent increase in reported cases of domestic violence. A UN Women rapid assessment of safe houses run by civil society organizations found these services were still operating, but some could not receive new beneficiaries due to a lack of separate spaces for isolation. None had received any financial support from the Government.

UN Women liaised with the international community so that eight safe houses could adapt their facilities and acquire basic protective equipment to prevent infection. From March to December 2020, 176 women and children were able to remain in safe houses, and 271 new survivors were admitted and provided with necessary services. In the same period, counselling reached at least 1,323 people. Such measures not only met immediate needs, but serve as a basis for longer-term relief and empowerment efforts.

A regional advocacy brief on strategies for the prevention of violence against women in the context of COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean was developed at the early stages of the pandemic. It

compiled emerging data on the impact of the pandemic on violence against women and girls and provided guidance to public and private actors, those in civil society and the international community.

UN Women in **Ecuador** worked with the Humanitarian Country Team and the National Secretariat for Human Rights on a course on gender-based violence and child protection that resulted in 127 service providers from 38 cities improving service response times for victims. After UN Women strengthened links between humanitarian and COVID-19 coordination bodies in **Lebanon**, a variety of initiatives ensued, such as distributing leaflets on sexual and gender-based violence hotlines with COVID-19 hygiene kits. UN Women and WHO jointly led a taskforce on COVID-19 isolation centres, which helped train centre staff on protection protocols to prevent discrimination and abuse. Following the establishment of the first public quarantine facility, 93 per cent of patients reported a high level of safety and protection.

In **Somalia**, UN Women has provided long-standing support to alternative dispute resolution centres that support access to justice for some of the most vulnerable women and communities. These proved a critical resource during the shadow pandemic, facilitating the transfer of 128 cases of sexual and gender-based violence to district courts. Accompanying interventions have increased understanding of traditional elders about women’s right to access justice and the need to avoid traditions encouraging communities to settle such cases, often to the detriment of women and girls. There has been a notable increase in the referral and reporting of cases.

“Considering the long-term fight of safe houses to keep their doors open, it was extremely important that UN Women recognized the need to provide immediate assistance. Coordinated support by UN Women ensured appropriate conditions for new admittances, reduced the risk of infection, improved the lives of our beneficiaries and their stay, and enabled better-quality support services to survivors of domestic violence and violence against women.”

Jelena Mišić, the director of one of the civil society organizations, “*Budučnost*” (Future), Bosnia and Herzegovina

KEEPING UP WITH MULTIPLE CRISES

While COVID-19 was the world's largest emergency in 2020, other crises continued or arose during the year, in some cases compounding pandemic impacts. With regular resources, UN Women sustained responses to humanitarian emergencies, including through engagement with civil society organizations. It also influenced and coordinated humanitarian work carried out by other actors.

On 20 May 2020, Super Cyclone Amphan made landfall in **Bangladesh**, affecting 2.6 million people in 19 districts. Monsoon flooding followed in June and July, impacting over 3.3 million people. In tandem, many women lost livelihoods as informal jobs and workplaces, where 91.8 per cent of employed women work, bore the brunt of COVID-19 fallout. The triple blow from the cyclone, floods and pandemic put women, girls and excluded groups at increased risk of gender-based violence and food insecurity.

Since regular resources are flexible and readily accessible, UN Women did not have to mobilize funding and could act immediately on humanitarian needs. In five of the hardest hit districts, UN Women provided cash assistance and preparedness messages on COVID-19 to more than 1,500 of the most marginalized people, including female heads of households, families with disabled people, sex workers and gender diverse people. The response was managed by local level women's groups previously trained to respond to humanitarian emergencies.

The capacity and leadership of the local women's groups were instrumental in reaching people like Bilkis Akter, 40, who has walking disabilities. Her husband earns the only income for the family, which includes two children, yet he lost his job in a garment factory due to the pandemic. The crisis intensified when cyclone-related flooding cut communication systems; the family could not seek relief from the local government or find enough to eat. UN Women's unconditional cash grant allowed Akter to buy rice, pulses and oil. "On the one hand my husband lost his job, on the other hand the flood hit. Before receiving this grant, we had no money left at home to buy food," she says.

In **Colombia**, UN Women worked with the National Unit for Risk and Disaster Management to strengthen gender-responsive risk identification and emergency action, improving coordination of the combined response to the pandemic and Hurricane Iota. Emergency kits provided to 2,680 women helped them meet essential needs for shelter, protection, hygiene and COVID-19 prevention in four regions of the country. UN Women also worked with municipalities on a gender

approach to emergency response plans, designed recommendations for national and local governments in the pandemic response, and encouraged the incorporation of gender in UN interventions.

Regular resources funded food and clothing for 120 families, including girls and young women, indigenous women and elderly women affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota in **Guatemala**. Collaboration with the Platform of Indigenous Women successfully advocated for the first emergency plans and protocols relevant to indigenous peoples, and elderly, middle-age and young women and indigenous girls.

Flooding and volcanic activity hindered the production and sale of food in **Ecuador**. After the eruptive process of Sangay volcano, UN Women partnered with WFP and the ADRA Foundation to deliver 500 food and hygiene kits in the Southern Ecuadorian Amazon. These kits were based on guidance from the leaders of the Shuar Federation and Shuar Arutam peoples to ensure high quality and cultural relevance. Women received the kits to demonstrate a shift from traditional power relations where men manage even shared resources.

Building on a women, peace and security assessment mission to **Venezuela** in 2019, UN Women in 2020 provided expertise in developing the country's Humanitarian Response Plan, which as a result incorporated gender analysis and data disaggregated by sex and age. UN Women also defined measures for women to take part in and lead planning and decision-making around all humanitarian efforts.

"On the one hand my husband lost his job, on the other hand the flood hit. Before receiving this grant, we had no money left at home to buy food."

Bilkis Akter, recipient of UN Women's unconditional cash grant lives in Islampur Upazila, Jamalpur in Bangladesh

Mahmuda Khatun, 30, lives in Barakuput village at Atulia union of Shyamnagar upazila in Khulna, Bangladesh. The COVID-19 pandemic forced shrimp prices to fall, which financially devastated her husband, who ran a shrimp farm. She hopes to receive training on how to cultivate fish fries properly as her previous endeavours failed as most of them died due to virus attacks. Photo: UN Women/Fahad Kaizer

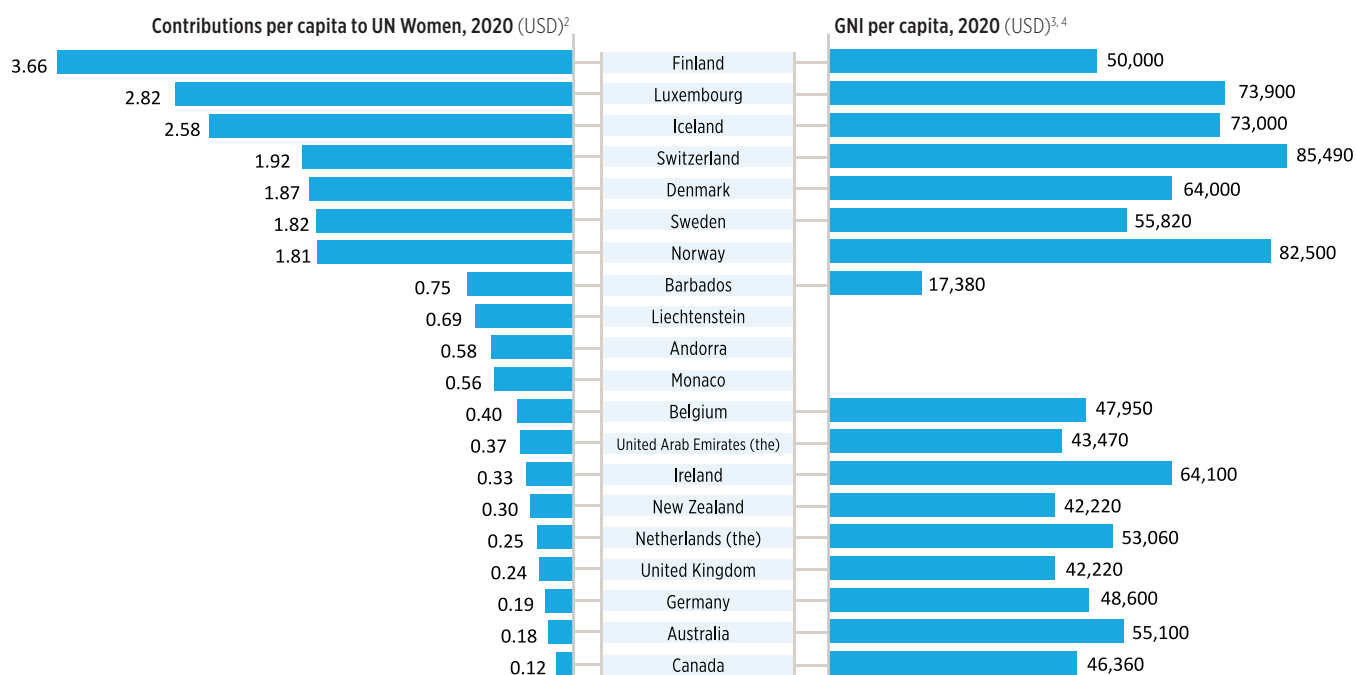


UN WOMEN REGULAR RESOURCE PARTNERS

FIG 9. REGULAR RESOURCES (USD) CONTRIBUTIONS BY RESOURCE PARTNER, 2020

RESOURCE PARTNERS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)	RESOURCE PARTNERS	REGULAR RESOURCES (CORE)
GOVERNMENTS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS		Panama	15,000
Albania	500	Paraguay	550
Andorra	44,818	Peru	2,936
Angola	5,000	Philippines (the)	7,500
Argentina	180,600	Poland	52,944
Armenia	5,000	Republic of Korea (the)	3,187,462
Australia	4,573,256	Republic of Moldova (the)	3,000
Austria	294,118	Romania	23,895
Bahamas (the)	5,000	Samoa	3,552
Bangladesh	16,500	Senegal	633,892
Barbados	216,657	Serbia	31,804
Belgium	4,545,455	Singapore	50,000
Bhutan	500	South Africa	52,498
Bulgaria	15,000	Sri Lanka	5,000
Canada	4,626,776	Sweden	18,748,985
China	2,000,000	Switzerland	16,494,845
Costa Rica	10,000	Thailand	20,000
Côte d'Ivoire	26,348	Timor L'Este	64,800
Czech Republic	17,718	Tonga	5,618
Denmark	10,881,035	Trinidad and Tobago	5,000
Estonia	88,889	Tunisia	5,289
Fiji	4,538	Turkey	169,456
Finland	20,196,507	Tuvalu	200
France	1,820,250	Uganda	1,000
Gabon	30,000	United Arab Emirates (the)	3,636,129
Germany	16,101,469	United Kingdom	15,924,766
Iceland	930,491	United Republic of Tanzania (the)	10,000
Ireland	1,637,555	United States of America	11,275,000
Israel	10,000	Viet Nam	60,314
Italy	2,896,592	SUB-TOTAL	163,188,070
Jamaica	3,990	NATIONAL COMMITTEES	
Japan	3,861,185	Australia	301,011
Jordan	19,884	Austria	3,575
Kazakhstan	44,962	Finland	426,228
Latvia	11,947	France	176,391
Liechtenstein	26,417	Germany	188,570
Luxembourg	1,746,725	Iceland	909,107
Malaysia	50,000	Japan	9,115
Malta	1,227	Netherlands	17,682
Mauritius	1,250	New Zealand	5,858
Mexico	50,000	Sweden	38,625
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1,000	United Kingdom	129,674
Monaco	21,978	United States of America (the)	322,737
Mongolia	7,000	SUB-TOTAL	2,528,574
Montenegro	2,188	FOUNDATIONS, PRIVATE DONORS & OTHERS	
Morocco	20,000	<i>Miscellaneous Donors¹</i>	38,822
Namibia	11,931	SUB-TOTAL	38,822
Nepal	2,000	TOTAL 2020 REGULAR RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS	165,755,466
Netherlands (the)	4,415,011		
New Zealand	1,487,250		
Nicaragua	5,000		
Niger (the)	150		
Nigeria	55,935		
Norway	9,659,036		
Pakistan	10,000		

FIG 10. REGULAR RESOURCES CONTRIBUTIONS PER CAPITA TO UN WOMEN AND GROSS NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA, 2020



Eunice Gama, 39 a beneficiary of UN Women’s Climate Smart Agriculture programme in Malawi, used profits made from the groundnut sales to diversify into goat production. Photo: Anny Nkhunda; African Institute for corporate Citizenship.

ABBREVIATIONS

- ADRA** Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- CEDAW** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- IANWGE** Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender Equality
- SOS** Morse code distress signal
- UNFPA** United Nations Population Fund
- WFP** World Food Programme
- WHO** World Health Organization

ENDNOTES

- 1 Miscellaneous Donors include online and individual giving donations.
- 2 Sourced from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SPPOPTOTL>
- 3 Sourced from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNPPCAPPPCD>
- 4 Data not available for Liechtenstein, Monaco and Andorra.